

Town of Londonderry, Vermont
Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 7, 2022
Twitchell Building - 100 Old School Street, South Londonderry, VT

Board Members Present: Tom Cavanagh, Vincent Annunziata, Taylor Prouty, and Melissa Brown.

Board Members Absent: Jim Fleming

Others in Attendance: Town Officials – Town Administrator Shane O’Keefe; Town Treasurer Tina Labeau; Town Clerk and Parks Board member Kelly Pajala; Recycling Coordinator Esther Fishman; Planning Commissioners Sharon Crossman and Larry Gubb; and Village Wastewater Committee member Gail Mann. Others – Residents Michael Goodbody, Darcy Duval, Meghan and Sean Meszkat; Business owners Judy and Tom Platt; Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation representative Nathaniel Hussey; Flood Brook Athletic Association representative Sarah Kiefer, and Bruce Frauman (GNAT).

1. Call meeting to order

Selectboard Chair Tom Cavanagh called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Additions or deletions to the agenda

[1 VSA 312(d)(3)(A)]

O’Keefe noted that hoped-for quotes for repairs at the Town Hall and Town Office were not received in time for the meeting but would be available for consideration at the next regular meeting.

Taylor Prouty moved to remove from the Old Business section of the agenda the consideration of Town Hall and Town Office repairs, seconded by Vincent Annunziata. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Executive Session(s) – The appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee per 1 V.S.A. 313 (a)(3)

Taylor Prouty moved to enter executive session to consider the employment or evaluation of a Town officer or employee, pursuant to Title 1 V.S.A. Section 313(a)(3), and invite Kelly Pajala to attend the executive session, seconded by Melissa Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board entered executive session at 6:01 PM. Pajala left the executive session at approximately 6:25 PM and the Board came out of executive session at 6:35 PM.

4. Minutes Approval – Meeting(s) of 10/26/2022

Vincent Annunziata moved to approve the minutes of the Selectboard meeting of October 26, 2022, seconded by Melissa Brown. The motion passed with a vote of 3-0-1, with Taylor Prouty abstaining.

5. Selectboard Pay Orders

Vincent Annunziata moved to approve the pay orders for payroll and accounts payable, seconded by Melissa Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Announcements/Correspondence

Shane O’Keefe noted the following:

- The lease for the solar array at the former septage fields was finally signed last week, and contractors will be visiting tomorrow and Wednesday to get things moving, and according to Green Lantern Solar construction activities should begin next month.
- The Town received from VTrans the permit for installation of the radar feedback signs and that day placed the order for the 6 signs. A meeting is scheduled for next week with staff from the VTrans district office to begin the coordination on installation.
- Unfortunately, the Town’s application for funding under the VTrans Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Grant program in the amount of \$340,000 was not awarded. Another grant program has been announced and he plans to apply for it in December. The engineer for the culvert design would be visiting with O’Keefe and Road Foreman Josh Dryden the day after the meeting, he added.
- A big thanks goes out to Mark Wright of Rugg Valley Landscaping for brush hogging the Prouty property at no cost to the Town. The Board suggested that a thank you letter from the Town be sent to Wright.

And he mentioned the correspondence included in the Board’s meeting packet was as follows:

- The appellant’s brief of the case of Emanuel Contos v. Town of Londonderry and Sandra Superchi, filed on 11/2/2022 with the Vermont Supreme Court. The Town’s brief will be issued in response.
- Letters of thanks from the Mountain Valley Medical Clinic for the Town Meeting annual contribution.
- Windham County Sheriff’s monthly report for October 2022.

Kelly Pajala reminded everyone to vote on the following day.

7. Visitors and Concerned Citizens

a. Meet with representative(s) of Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation/SeVEDS

Nathaniel Hussey spoke to the Board about the work of the BDCC and the Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies, which is a 19-member board that drives the strategic efforts of SeVEDS for the region. BDCC provides programmatic staff for SeVEDS, he said, and seeks funding from communities it covers for those efforts. The amount requested from Londonderry is \$5,307, a figure based on the town’s 2010 census population.

Hussey noted that BDCC is seeking a letter of support from the Town for its application for the Southern Vermont Economic Zone, a federally recognized economic district which includes Windham and Bennington counties. The designation helps with federal government

communications and funding, he explained. And mentioned that the application will be submitted by 1/1/2023 and that he will provide a template for the support letter.

He mentioned a regional business plan competition that BDCC sponsors and that several were submitted by Londonderry businesses, and noted Hayden Rowe Candles as one particularly good example. Hussey mentioned that One Londonderry was instrumental in supporting local businesses to enter the competition.

He mentioned that BDCC was on the front end of the wastewater planning process some years back, And also provides funding for community facility planning, as well as workforce development efforts. Hussey noted that the population of Windham County, including younger people, has increased in part from the influx of Afghan refugees having resettled in the Brattleboro area, where BDCC has helped with housing, employment and integration into the community.

It was agreed to review a letter of support at an upcoming meeting

b. General

Michael Goodbody inquired about what the Board was doing to enforce vehicle weight limits on Town roads, noting that trucks from Hunter Excavation to and from the Rowes Road quarry facilities are overweight and problematic. He noted that the company has requested an extension of its 10-year permit, and that it was operating in violation into this past October until it was shut down by the State of Vermont. Goodbody mentioned that the larger facility on Rowes Road is still in operation despite its permit having expired back in August. He noted the company is looking to triple its trucking and mentioned that that would be damaging to Town roads. He asked if the Board supported the gravel pits being closed down or kept open, and who is enforcing the 24,000-pound road weight limit for the Town.

Taylor explained that many trucking-related businesses serving Londonderry must apply for an annual overweight permit, which explains why heavy vehicles are on Town roads with weight limits. Regarding support for gravel pits, he mentioned that the Town needs gravel to maintain its gravel roads and supports the operation as being essential from that standpoint. Business growth beyond supply to the Town is another matter, he noted.

Goodbody complained that Hunter Excavating trucks often run uncovered and shed dust in the residential neighborhood.

O’Keefe mentioned that the Development Review Board a few years prior had approved an increase in trucking and hours of operations, which was conditioned on securing and Act 250 permit.

Prouty mentioned that truck trips were proposed to be split in either direction on Thompsonburg Road and Main Street to help reduce impacts on the neighborhood, but that this might not have been a permit requirement.

O’Keefe suggested holding off on further discussion as the matter is not on the agenda, and to add it to the next meeting agenda in order to gather additional information and be open to others interested in the issues.

It was agreed to put this matter on the agenda for the next regular meeting.

Goodbody noted that there still remains a storm drain in from of his home on Main Street in need of risers. Prouty stated that he would look into this.

Goodbody, Duval and Hussey left the meeting at 7:01 PM.

8. Town Officials Business

a. Parks Board – Update on creation of Recreation Director position

Following up on the presentation at the 9/26/2022 meeting, Sarah Kiefer spoke to the Board about the proposed regional recreation director position, noting that the Flood Brook Athletic Association has partnered with the Parks Board and West River Sports on the effort. She mentioned that presentations have been made to the Selectboards of each of the proposed participating towns and the feedback has been positive. A written presentation was provided to the Board prior to the meeting.

She mentioned that the rationale of the position is to ensure the longevity and sustainability of high quality and inclusive recreation programs for people of all ages in the mountain towns, to include Londonderry, Landgrove, Peru, Weston and Winhall. It would ease communication and coordination efforts between users and partners as well as between activities and facilities, and also pick up the administrative work of the parks. Communities with recreation directors have been contacted to better inform the proposal with regard to recreation activities and opportunities.

Kiefer described the proposed position responsibilities and funding structure, which is proposed to be 20% allocated toward Town parks maintenance, with the balance picked up by the 5 towns with an allocation based on census population. There would be no additional costs for the position salary and benefits as other expenses are covered by the Town and by the activity partners. The proposal handout stated a salary of between \$45,000 and 55,000, with an overall cost of between \$83,315 and \$95,386. Kelly Pajala stated that the goal is to have this position worked into the budget for this next year, which means a new position in July 2023.

She described an advisory committee to be formed with representation from each town and the partners to oversee the position and develop policies and procedures. Kiefer stated that she will bring the proposal to other towns next and is seeking feedback. {Pajala added that based on feedback received they would be refining the budget and drafting potential Town Meeting articles.

Prouty noted that if one town does not go forward the cost structure would change accordingly and affect the other towns. Brown stated that she is very supportive of the proposal as it is a good roadmap and very impressive. Prouty added that the proposal is very well organized and the extensive list of existing activities further emphasizes the need for the position.

Pajala mentioned that the Town of Londonderry, like the Transfer Station, would take the lead on the personnel and administrative part of the position, and how participating towns contribute to that responsibility and oversight needs to be worked out. There was a discussion about including other towns, particularly Windham, and it was mentioned that no child would be excluded from participating, even if not from a participating town.

It was agreed to add this matter to the 12/5/2022 Board meeting.

b. Village Wastewater Committee – Presentation on project purpose, needs and benefits

Gail Mann made a presentation regarding the village wastewater project, noting that Londonderry was allocated 30% of all funding state-wide ARPA funding under this program, which is an incredible gift to the community. Other towns in the past have had to foot the bill on their own through loans and bonds to address wastewater projects.

She provided information on the history of the project and provided a timeline of milestones since 2019, and noted that wastewater was discussed 25 years ago when the Town acquired the Prouty property. The recent funding, she stated, came to the Town because of the progress made in the initial feasibility study, which is still in process, but noted that we are still behind with deliverables on the project.

The project calls for a number of decentralized in-ground systems that allow for small clusters of homes and businesses to connect for effective wastewater treatment. She noted that they are needed to protect our water resources and potable water from increased e-coli contaminating our streams, rivers and ultimately reaching our groundwater and water sources.

Noting the dire need for housing in the community, Mann said that any increase in housing stock in the villages is dependent on increased wastewater capacity. Without this added capacity the community is stuck and will never grow to meet its needs, she added. For the community to accommodate an aging population that needs to be closer to services and support systems, relocation into the villages will first require improved wastewater capacity.

On siting of systems, the Committee is actively looking at the library-owned property next to the Town Office, which includes recreational trail use. Other sites still need to be found and Mann mentioned that the technology has evolved beyond what people envision as a septic system and facilities are now designed to be invisible and can easily coexist in recreational, school and other public settings as demonstrated elsewhere in Vermont.

The challenges to the project include the project completion deadline of 12/2026, she mentioned, and spoke to the need for adequate sites in the north village, and the daunting task of handling the entire project. But the biggest thing is Town and public support for the project; if the community is not behind the project and serious, Mann added, we should walk away from it.

She noted that she wants better engineering support from the Town's consultant engineer.

Mann announced that a public forum on the project is scheduled for 11/15/2022 at Neighborhood Connections, with an online option, which will be led by the Windham Regional Commission's Chris Campany, and will include Emily Hackett from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation and the Town's project engineer, Chrissy Haskins.

c. Village Wastewater Committee – Consider hiring of Windham Regional Commission for public outreach

O'Keefe mentioned that the \$125,000 grant funding for preliminary design, legal, survey and outreach for each village included hiring the Windham Regional Commission to assist with the public outreach effort and other support functions at up to \$15,000 for each village, and

the upcoming public forum can be included in the allocation. He suggested hiring WRC now, with the Village Wastewater Committee coming to agreement with WRC on a limited scope of work, and to define a broader scope of work in the future for Board consideration. O’Keefe explained that it was his understanding that working with the WRC does not require a public solicitation process by the State of Vermont.

Mann mentioned that Chris Company of WRC is very capable in this sort of work, and they will look to consider other ongoing planning efforts in the presentation.

Melissa Brown moved to authorize Village Wastewater Committee work with the Windham Regional Commission to develop and approve a scope of services and cost proposal for public outreach services up to a maximum of \$10,000, and to authorize the Town Administrator to execute all documents necessary for hiring of the Commission, including a service contract. It is acknowledged that amendments to the contract will be necessary in the future, such amendments must be first authorized by the Board, seconded by Vincent Annunziata. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Transfer Station/Solid Waste Management

a. Updates

Esther Fishman stated that the 2023 transfer station stickers are in and will be available on 12/1/2022. She also noted that she is applying for funding for 2022 solid waste implementation plan that goes for hazardous waste collection, and is also applying for 2023 funds.

The bottle shed roof is in need of immediate replacement and she has received an estimate of \$1,824. It was agreed to hold off on this matter until the next regular meeting.

Cavanagh mentioned that the piston for backhoe outrigger is still out for repairs.

b. Discuss equipment funding

Following up on the brief discussion at the previous meeting, Cavanagh mentioned that the backhoe, which was a second-hand unit from the Highway Department, is in need of replacement in the coming years as the Town is spending a lot on repairs annually and with 10,668 hours on it it could lose the engine at any time. He and Fishman have looked into replacements, he stated, and the price range for a decent gently used replacement is in the range of \$90,000 to \$130,000, and we’re spending in the range of \$5,000 to almost \$6,000 per year to repair the existing backhoe.

Prouty suggested looking into a better piece of equipment and possibly hiring someone to purchase one at auction on behalf of the Town. Cavanagh noted that the backhoe works well for the needed use at the facility.

Brown questioned whether there were available funds for the replacement of the backhoe. While the Town could borrow from its existing funds, it was suggested that it be included in next year’s budget. And the participating district communities would need to be contacted for input as they would be sharing in the cost.

Cavanagh suggested keeping the existing backhoe as a backup unit. He and Fishman will continue to do research on equipment options.

10. Roads and Bridges

a. Updates

Taylor Prouty noted the following usage for the month of October 2022:

Salt – 0 tons Sand – 0 yards

Fuel (gallons): Vehicles – 335.0, Town Office Generator – 20, Transfer Station – 145

He added that some roads still need mowing, grading and ditching, and the warm weather has been helpful with the schedule. He suggested an earlier start with annual mowing next year, and he mentioned that the Road Crew is getting ready for winter weather with trucks and equipment.

The tree removal budget for next year should be increased, he suggested. And he mentioned that he had received a proposal for tree removal on Thompsonburg Road that will likely exceed the budget and which can be discussed at the next regular meeting.

Prouty mentioned that the 6-month reviews for Donnie Lyon and Troy Maynard should be scheduled for an upcoming meeting as well.

Fishman raised an issue about the barriers on the State highway bridge in the north village, which Taylor noted is on the State's list for attention but with no solid date.

End of season work by VTrans in the community was discussed. Cavanagh noted the sinkhole on VT Route 100 near Windy Rise being addressed, and O'Keefe noted that centerlines were painted by the State prior to Town repaving projects, so they were covered over. He is looking to see if VTrans can have them repainted.

Prouty raised the issue of inadequate aprons on several Town roads from the VT Route 11 paving. O'Keefe mentioned that VTrans has sent someone to look at them, and Prouty added that the Road Crew may need to address them.

11. Old Business

a. Discuss regulation of short-term rentals

Following up on the brief discussion at the previous meeting, Cavanagh noted that the issue of short-term rentals (STR) has come up due to complaints from neighbors of some of these now in the community. He spoke of this being an issue everywhere and mentioned the efforts of other communities to address STRs and mentioned that the Board's meeting packet included STR ordinance documents from the Towns of Peru, Killington and Woodstock.

Annunziata noted some of the restrictions on STRs from other jurisdictions, and suggested that Londonderry should move forward with regulation and could set the standard for very strict regulation, including very high annual registration fees and enforcement fines for STRs.

Brown mentioned that seasonal rentals have always been part of the mountain communities, with some tenants establishing attachments to the community, but now there is a revolving door of visitors with no commitment to anyone. The negative impacts include noise at all hours, taxing of septic systems, lack of recycling and composting, and excess trash.

Brown noted that STRs also take away affordable housing opportunities. And while there are possibly some positives of STRs, such as increased business in the community, those working at service businesses are often being forced to live far away from Londonderry.

She suggested establishing an STR registry and to draw a distinction between someone renting a room to a ski mountain employee long-term and someone renting a house to 20 people for a few days. The negative impacts from the latter example are evident.

Prouty agreed that itinerant visitors do not care about the community, and there needs to be some accountability and enforcement to address negative impacts.

Brown stated that the registration fees could offset the cost of enforcement. The difficulty of enforcing off-hour STR violations was discussed, and Prouty suggested employing preventative measures to reduce the need for this. Pajala mentioned that Peru's proposed STR ordinance references a noise ordinance, and that the Board may wish to consider that approach as well.

There was discussion of the establishment of a local rooms tax to raise revenue that could be used for enforcement or other Town expenses.

Cavanagh stated that more research is needed on STRs and the Town should continue to work on this.

Sean Meszkat thanked the Board for its efforts to address STRs.

Annunziata noted that people are buying homes just to turn them into STRs and it's painful to see the impacts, and that this should be stopped.

O'Keefe will contact the Town Attorney to see if he is working on STR regulation with other communities and to determine how the Town might want to approach regulation. Looking at out-of-state ordinances was also suggested.

Brown suggested next steps such as establishing a steering committee or working with the Planning Commission. It was mentioned that the ongoing housing needs assessment should come up with good data on STRs. Brown noted that housing survey being conducted and suggested that everyone should participate. How best to distribute the survey was discussed, including sending out the survey link to the Town's email distribution list.

Sharon Crossman suggested that the Zoning Bylaw draft should be referred to as it also addresses STRs.

It was agreed to keep this on the agenda for upcoming meetings.

The Meszkats, Kiefer and Fishman left the meeting at 8:09 PM.

b. Discussion of use of funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Cavanagh mentioned that so far requests for funding had been received from Neighborhood Connections, Tom and Judy Platt, and the West River Montessori School, and that the Board would not be making any decisions on funding until the second meeting in April 2023.

Tom Platt mentioned that they didn't get the same percentage as others during the first round of ARPA funding, and they have significant expenses to maintain their buildings. Judy Platt said their ARPA funds received were significantly lower than all others, and questioned whether there was favoritism on the part of the Board. Tom Platt invited the Board members to come by to view the areas of the buildings needing work and expressed gratitude for the first-round funding. He mentioned that they are considering seeking a FEMA buyout of their properties which would lead to their demolition.

Cavanagh encouraged the Platts to also seek funding from the State of Vermont, of which there is a lot available. Pajala mentioned that the Agency of Commerce and Community Development has ARPA funding available to businesses.

Judy Platt asked whether the Board would be directing any ARPA funds to Town infrastructure projects. Brown stated that she believes that the ARPA funding should be distributed in keeping with the original purpose of the funding.

Gail Mann mentioned that business recovery funds are being made available by the State at this time.

The Platts thanked the Board and left the meeting at 8:16 PM.

c. Town Office Renovation Project – Discuss bond vote

Following up on the discussion at the previous meeting, Cavanagh noted that preliminary plans for the Town Office have been drawn up and its just a matter of timing when to put the project up for decision by the Voters.

O’Keefe reiterated that construction costs have escalated and the original project cost of ~\$900,000 was estimated to be as high as \$1.3 million last year, and there is no estimate of cost at this time but it’s likely to be higher. He added that there is no expiration of project bonding authority once approved by the Voters, so a project approved this next year can wait some time for the optimal time to bid and bond. Bond payments would only be due after project construction. The only thing to do now is decide whether to bring the bond to the Voters this next Town Meeting.

It was clarified that the bond interest rate is determined by when the borrowing takes place, not when it is voted on. Brown asked whether there are other funds available for this project beyond borrowing to reduce the bond amount, and options discussed included Town and State ARPA funds, the Town’s building reserve fund, and FEMA funds due to the Town Office being the location of the Town’s emergency operations center. Pajala mentioned that there may be funds for building accessibility, including funds from the Secretary of State’s Elections Division due to the Town Office being a polling place.

Prouty mentioned that there are enough delays with projects already, so there is no reason hold off as it won’t be getting any cheaper to complete, so progress steps should be made. Cavanagh suggested that it is likely to take some time to hire a contractor.

The next step in the bonding process, O’Keefe mentioned, was for the Board to vote to begin the bond process with a motion at the next meeting identical to the one taken back in 2019 that starts the clock and allows any expenditures necessary for the project to be paid back through the bond.

O’Keefe suggested meeting with BDCC as was done in the past to piece together various funding sources. He mentioned that by passing a bond it would show other funders that the Town is committed to the project, making it more attractive for them to participate.

Crossman mentioned that the Planning Commission can help identify funds as well. She added that the Selectboard should vocally express its support for the project, which would help the citizens to respond positively. Brown suggested community fundraising for the

project as well, and Crossman mentioned that this could help people have additional pride of ownership.

Mann suggested having bonds on the books may be good for the Town's bond rating.

Vincent Annunziata moved to schedule and take the necessary steps to arrange for a bond vote for the Town Office renovations for the March 2023 Annual Town Meeting, seconded by Melissa Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Ratification of 10/26/2022 to appointment to the Town Hall Renovation Committee

Because the Board voted on 10/26/2022 to make an appointment to the Town Hall Renovation Committee when the matter was not on the agenda, the Board must by its rules bring the matter up again and ratify its vote.

Melissa Brown moved to ratify the Board's October 26, 2022 decision to appoint Vincent Annunziata to the Town Hall Renovation Committee, seconded by Taylor Prouty. The motion passed unanimously.

12. New Business

a. Discuss remote accessibility for meetings of public bodies

Brown stated that hybrid meetings only appear to be available for meetings for the duration of 2022, but she understands that this sunset may be revisited by the Legislature, and Pajala mentioned that it is likely to come up.

O'Keefe explained that the Board has always had the option of holding hybrid meetings as long as there is a physical place where the public can come to participate.

Brown said that she feels the Board should allow for engagement in as many levels as possible, and that the meeting would have been better attended had there been online accessibility. She said that there are likely people wanting avoid driving to a meeting, particularly in the winter, and others who would want to view the meeting live and not necessarily participate beyond that. And that the several issues raised that stand in the way of holding meetings remotely can be easily overcome.

Prouty suggested having a person oversee the online participation so that the meeting participants don't have to be distracted by this. Cavanagh suggested that no matter what there will be technical difficulties that will get in the way of remote participation, as demonstrated by the recent Planning Commission forums.

Annunziata suggested having a test trial period where people can attend remotely to view only to see if there are bugs that can be worked out, and maybe people can call in over the phone if needed.

Pajala mentioned that with the Legislature if there is a technical glitch that makes it impossible for the public to participate the meeting must be ended, and the Selectboard could be in a similar situation if it advertises that meeting would remotely open and available to the public. It was noted that all written chats must be part of the public records.

Gail Mann suggested that the Board should speak with the people at Neighborhood Connections as they have hardware that allows for this.

There was extended discussion on how Board meetings are conducted and can be accessed by the public.

Annunziata suggested having a live feed of meetings for one-way viewing by the public of meetings. He volunteered to look further into how best to do this and to speak with Neighborhood Connections on their meeting systems.

b. Discuss Town Constable position

Cavanagh recalled that at each annual Town Meeting no one tends to run for the constable office and someone must then be appointed each year. A previous effort to have the position appointed by the Selectboard at a special Town Meeting was withdrawn as the Voters can only authorize this by Australian ballot at an annual Town Meeting. The Vermont statutes were changed this last year, O’Keefe mentioned, to allow for Towns to eliminate the constable position at any Town meeting and not by Australian ballot, but that the Selectboard must then appoint someone to handle the position responsibilities. Those responsibilities include:

- Serve civil or criminal process;
- Assist the health officer in the discharge of his or her duties;
- Destroy dogs when so ordered;
- Kill injured deer;
- Remove disorderly people from Town Meeting; and
- Collect taxes, if no tax collector is elected.

If the Board wants there to be some enforcement of ordinances, such as with STRs, then it may make sense to retain the position. O’Keefe suggested placing the matter of Selectboard appointment of the constable on the draft Town Meeting warning for later consideration. Board members were fine with this.

c. Approve preventive maintenance agreement for Town Office generator

The Board reviewed the proposed preventive maintenance contact for the Town Office generator with Brook Field Service for next year, which is quoted at \$602 for a single visit or \$981 for two visits. With the generator 4 years old at this time, it was generally agreed that for the first 5 years or so once/year service was appropriate and to consider twice/year service thereafter.

Taylor Prouty moved to accept the preventative maintenance agreement from Brook Field Service for annual service of the Town Office generator one time per year, and authorize the Town Administrator to execute the agreement on behalf of the Board, seconded by Vincent Annunziata. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Consider adoption of Declaration of Inclusion

O’Keefe mentioned that Cavanagh was first contacted about this state-wide effort that is being led by three residents from the Rutland area. A press release included in the meeting packet noted that 73 communities in Vermont representing 52% of its population have signed on to the campaign. There was general discussion on the declaration, about its importance as well as its relevance, and whether the Selectboard speaks for everyone in the community.

Melissa Brown moved to adopt and execute the following declaration of inclusion:

- *The town of Londonderry, Vermont condemns racism and welcomes all persons regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age or disability and wants everyone to feel safe and welcome in our community.*
- *As a town, we formally condemn discrimination in all its forms, commit to fair and equal treatment of everyone in our community, and will strive to ensure all our actions, policies and operating procedures reflect this commitment.*
- *The town of Londonderry is and will continue to be a place where individuals can live freely and express their opinions.*

The motion was seconded by Taylor Prouty. The motion passed unanimously.

e. Executive Session – The negotiating or securing of real estate purchase or lease options, per 1 V.S.A. 313 (a)(2)

Taylor Prouty moved to enter executive session to discuss negotiating or securing of real estate purchase or lease options, pursuant to Title 1 V.S.A. Section 313(a)(2), and invite the Town Administrator to attend the executive session, seconded by Vincent Annunziata. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board entered executive session at 9:04 PM and came out of executive session at 9:15 PM.

Melissa Brown moved to assign Taylor Prouty, Shane O’Keefe and Gail Mann to meet with the Library Board or its representatives to discuss acquisition of its property next to the Town Office, seconded by Vincent Annunziata. The motion passed unanimously.

It was noted that this decision will need to be ratified at a subsequent meeting as it was not on the agenda.

f. Consider employee compensation matter

The Board passed over this matter.

13. Adjourn

Melissa Brown moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Vincent Annunziata. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 PM. The next meeting of the Selectboard is scheduled for November 21, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shane P. O’Keefe
Town Administrator

Approved November 21, 2022.

LONDONDERRY SELECTBOARD

Thomas Cavanagh, Chair